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Message Text

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ACTION NAS-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 OES-06 NSF-02 ACDA-10 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO ERDA GERMANTOWN
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UNCLAS TOKYO 16454

LIVERMAN, WHITNAH, EDINGTON, HELFRICH PLS PASS NATIONAL
ACADEMY SCIENCE FOR JABLON, KROPP, LAZEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, JA
SUBJECT: RERF LOW DOSE AND BGS STUDIES

REF: 1) SEPT. 7, 1976 CONVERSATION LIVERMAN-HENOCH
2) TOKYO 11308, 3) OCT. 6, 1976 CONVERSATION
FINCH-HENOCH

1. AS DIRECTED BY LIVERMAN, REF 1) ERDA REP DISCUSSED THINKING ERDA, AAES ON POSSIBLE ERDA COOPERATION WITH MHW ON LOW DOESE STUDIES AND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS EFFORT, MORE AGGRESSIVE MHW AND RERF POSTURE ON BGS PROGRAM. DISCUSSION WAS VERY FRANK AND OPEN, SABURI SEVERAL TIMES REQUESTING SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS ABOUT WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE FOUNDATION. ERDA REP RESPONDED STRAIGHTFORWARDLY ON BASIS INFO FROM FINCH, ALLEN, LIVERMAN, NEEL, EDINGTON, JABLON, BLOOM.

2. ERDA REP DISCUSSED US UNDERSTANDING OF BACKGROUND OF MHW (GOJ) INTEREST IN LOW DOSE STUDIES, NAMELY DIET DIRECTION TO SABURI FOR RERF TO INVESTIGATE, FOR ITSELF, EFFECTS, OR ABSENCE OF SAME, OF LOW DOESE RADIATION
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ON HUMAN BEINGS PARA 13, REF 2). THIS DIRECTION

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GIVEN BOTH IN LIGHT OF SIGNIFICANT PRESENT NUCLEAR
INSTALLED CAPACITY JAPAN AND ALSO OF PLANNED
ACCELERATEDNUCLEAR POWER GROWTH.

3. SABURI STATED THAT MHW IS NOW DIRECTED TO ATTEMPT
TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER HEALTH ASSOCIATED RADIATION
THRESHOLD EXISTS OR WHETHER RELATIONSHIP LINERAR OF
OTHERWISE.

4. ERDA REP COMMUNICATED LIVERMAN SUGGESTION THAT SMALL
U.S. GROUP OF WIDELY RECOGNIZED EXPERTS (E.G. STORER, CROW,
UPTON, HOLLANDER) BE FORMED TO PULL TOGETHER TEN OR SO SPECIAL
PAPERS ON LOW LEVEL EFFECTS AND TO EVALUATE THE POSSIBILITY
OF FINDING WAYS TO DETECT SUCH EFFECTS I.E. EXPERIMENTAL
PROTOCOL) IN MAN. GROUP WOULD CONDUCT REVIEW OF RERF FILES
AND STATISTICS TO PROVIDE INPUT INTO AND ASSIST IN FORMULATION
OF PROTOCOL. SCIREP ALSO PRESENTED LIVERMAN SUGGESTION
THAT BGS (NEEL) APPROACH MAY WELL BE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION
TO IDENTIFICATION OF LOWDOSE-HEALTH EFFECTS RELATIONSHIPS.
SABURI AGREED THAT BGS STUDY COULD INDEED PROVIDE SUCH
INPUT.

5. DISCUSSION THEN WIDENED TO POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN LOW
DOSE STUDY OF U.K., SWEDEN, W. GERMANY OR CONSOLIDATION
BY IAEA AS MENTIONED BY AAES. WHILE NO DEFINITE STRUCTURE
CRYSTALLIZED OUT OF CONVERSATION, SABURI INDICATED BELIEF
THAT INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION WOULD LEND OBJECTIVITY AND
ACCEPTABILITY TO STUDY AND TO CONCLUSIONS. HE ALSO SUGGESTED
THAT TWO-WAY ARRANGEMENT LESS DIFFICULT TO MANAGE THAN
THREE OR FOUR-WAY ONE. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN STATISTICAL
STUDY OF HEALTH OF PU WORKERS IN U.S. AS ALLUDED TO BYP
LIVERMAN. HE INDICATED HIS THINKING CURRENTLY INCLUDED THREE
LINES OF INVESTIGATION: 1) BASIC LABORATORY STUDIES,
2) CHEMICAL STUDIES (E.G. BGS) AND 3) EPIDEMIOLOGICAL
STUDIES. SABURI BELIEVES THAT EXISTING DATA ON SURVIVORS
COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THIS AND ADDITIONALLY NOTED TQT HEALTH
STATISTICS ARE BEING COLLECTED ON JAPANESE SCHOOL CHILDREN
(AND EX-SCHOOL CHILDREN) WHO, UNTIL RECENTLY, HAVE BEEN
ROUTINELY RECEIVING ANNUAL CHEST X-RAYS AS PART OF A SCHOOL
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION PROGRAM. THE AUTOMATIC CHEST X-RAY
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HAS BEEN DISCONTNUED. IN ADDITION TO EXTENSION OF BGS
TO LOW DOSE (AND SABURI UNDERSTANDS THAT BGS WILL HAVE TO
GET OFF THE GROUND BEFORE IT CAN BE EXTENDED), SABURI THINKING
OF EXTENSION OF MORPHOLOGICAL STUDIES OF CHROMOSOMES FROM
HIGH DOSE TO LOW DOSE AREA. HE NOTED THAT AT THE MARCH
BUDGET MEETING IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT THIS PROGRAM BE
EMPHASIZED.

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6. PROBLEM OF SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE EFFORTS IN TERMS OF RERF'S STAFF AND STAFFING PROBLEMS WAS BRIEFLY TOUCHED UPON. IN RESPONSE TO ERDA REP CONCERN THAT RERF LACKED MANPOWER AND STAFFING FLEXILITY TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO DIRECTIONS OF THIS KIND SABURI SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBILITY OF RERF SUBCONTRACTING CERTAIN APPROPRIATE ITEMS TO OTHER QUALIFIED LABORATORIES IN JAPAN OR ELSYWERE. WHETHER RERF HAS INCLINATION, CAPACITY AND AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MAJOR SUBCONTRACTING PROGRAMS UNASCERTAINED, BUT PERHAPS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

7. IN ADDITION, SABURI POINTED OUT FACT THAT AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORMED DURING EXISTENCE ABCC AND NEVER DISSOLVED COULD PERHAPS PICK UP A PIECE OF THIS ACTION IF RERF AND BOARD SO DESIRES. CONSTITUENCY AND CQRTER OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE UNCERTAIN, BUT COULD BE USED BY RERF AS CONSULTATIVE BODY. (PRESUMABLY SIMILAR TO ACADEMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE). HOWEVER, IF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADVISES RERF, COST WOULD BE SPLIT 50-50 BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPAN.

8. SABURI THEN ASKED WHAT U.S. FELT PROBLEM WAS WITH WHAT U.S. BELIEVES TO BE UNNECESSARILY SLOW PROGRESS IN BGS PROGRAM. ERDA REP SUGGESTED AT LEAST PART OF PROBLEM DUE TO INSIFFICIENT ATTENTION TO MANAGEMENT OF FOUNDATION BY RERF CHAIRMAN AND REMAINED SABURI OF PREVIOUS, INFORMAL DISCUSSION AT WHICH THIS SUBJECT WAS TOUCHED UPON. SABURI REMEMBERED THE DISCUSSION AND INDICATED THAT THE SAME CONCERN WAS EXPRESSEDHBY JABLON DURING SUBSEQUENT MEETING IN TOKYO. SABURI SAID THAT HE HAD CONTACTED YAMASHITA AFTER FIRST DISCUSSION SOME MONTHS AGO AND ASKED HIM TO MAKE SPECIFIC DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY SO THAT RERF BUSINESS COULD PROCEED IN HIS ABSENCE. ERDA REP INDICATED THAT THIS HAD APPARENTLY (REF3) NOT OCCURRED. SABURI STATED INTENTION TO DISCUSS
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AGAIN WITH CHAIRMAN POSITIVE DELEGATION AUTJORITY IN HIS ABSENCE TO ALLEN, OR IN HIS ABSENCE, TO FINCH. ALSO, WHILE TRUE THAT BOTH SIDES AGREED TO PUSH BGS, SABURI WILL RE-EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE TO CHAIRMAN BOTH IN TERMS OF PRIOR COMMITMENT AND IN TERMS OF RELATION TO LOW DOSE STUDY.

9. WHILE CLIMATE HOSPITABLE ERDA REP BROUGHT UP PROBLEM OF FREQUENT DIRECT, UNCOORDINATED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN YAMASHITA AND EMORI, AND FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONCURRENCE OF OR INPUT FROM ALLEN AND FINCH. SUBJECT BROUGHT UP IN GENERAL TERMS WITHOUT SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO RECENT JFY 1977 BUDGET FLAP, WHICH WENT TO FINANCE MINISTRY WITHOUT HAVING BEEN SEEN IN ADVANCE BY ALLEN, FINCH, NAS OR ERDA. WHILE PROCEDURE UNDERSTANDABLE IN TERMS OF A) PAST CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YAMASHITA AND EMORI, B)

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LANGUAGE PROBLEMS AND C) EXTREME TEMPTATION TO BY-PASS
TIME CONSUMING ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAMMATIC NEGOTIATIONS,
SABURI UNDERSTOOD NEED FOR MORE THOROUGH INTERNAL COMMUNICATION
AND CONCURRENCE. SABURI SAID HE WOULD TALKVWO YAMASHITA
ABOUT IT.

10. IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH ALLEN, ERDA REP
LEARNED THAT YAMASHITA JUST LAST WEEK RETIRED FROM KEIO
UNIVERSITY. THIS PRESUMABLY WILL SERVE TO TERMINATE A SIG-
NIFICANT FRACTION OF HIS TIES WITH THE TOKYO ENVIRONS AND
PERMIT HIM TO MOVE TO HIROSHIMA. IT SHOULD ALSO REMOVE
ONE MAJOR DISTRACTION FROM HIS ACTIVITIES SO THAT HE CAN
DEVOTE MORE OF HIS ATTENTION TO THE FOUNDATION.

11. ALL IN ALL, IT APPEARED TO BE VERY WORTHWHILE MEETING
DURING WHICH FRANK OBSERVATIONS AND OPINIONS WERE EXCHANGED.
TEST, OF COURSE, WILL BE WHETHER ANY CHANGE IN RERF OPERATION
IS EFFECTED.
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